REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 27-47 are pending. Claims 27, 29, 31-33, 36, 38-41, 43 and 45-47 have been

amended. Support for this amendment can be found in, for example, paragraphs

[0043]-[0045] of Applicants' Specification as filed. No new matter has been added.

Claims 28, 35 and 42 have been canceled without prejudice.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 27, 31, 34, 38, 41 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first

paragraph for lack of antecedent basis. Without admitting to the propriety of the

rejection, Applicants have amended claims 27, 31, 34, 38, 41 and 45 accordingly. Thus,

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 27, 31, 34, 38, 41

and 45.

The Examiner rejected claims 31-33, 38-40 and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112,

second paragraph due to minor informalities. Applicants have amended claims 31-33,

38-40 and 45-47 accordingly. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the

rejection of claims 31-33, 38-40 and 45-47.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected independent claims 27, 34 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0091037 of Latif, et al. ("Latif").

Claim 27, as amended, claims "discovering an FC network address corresponding to the destination IP address by searching a plurality of subfields in the FC name server database according to positions of the plurality of subfields, the FC name server database comprising a master field for a master storage server and a failover field for a failover storage server for the master storage server, wherein the master and failover fields are each partitioned into first and second subfields, the second subfield of the failover field stores an IP address for the master storage server if the master storage server fails, and wherein the second subfields are searched prior to searching the first subfields."

Latif does not disclose or suggest such limitations. Latif discloses an SoIP framework to link existing Fibre Channel (FC), Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) and Ethernet end devices with an Ethernet-based *IP network*. Figure 6a of Latif shows an FCP frame *encapsulated in an Ethernet IP frame* that is transmitted through an Ethernet-based *IP network*. In brief, Latif deals with transmitting data from FC/SCSI storage devices *over an IP network*. In contrast, claim 27 is directed to transmitting an IP packet *over an FC network, i.e.,* "discovering *an FC network address* corresponding to the

destination IP address by searching a plurality of subfields in the FC name server database according to positions of the plurality of subfields...."

In addition, the FC name server database of claim 27 includes "a master field for a master storage server and a failover field for a failover storage server for the master storage server," "the master and failover fields are each partitioned into first and second subfields," "the second subfield of the failover field stores an IP address for the master storage server if the master storage server fails" and "the second subfields are searched prior to searching the first subfields," as recited in claim 27. No part of Latif discloses or suggests such database structure as claimed by claim 27.

Thus, Latif does not disclose or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 27, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Latif.

Claims 34 and 41 contain similar limitations as the limitations of claim 27. Therefore, at least for the reason stated above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 34 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Latif.

Claims 29-30, 36-37 and 43-44 depend from claims 27, 34 and 41, respectively and thus, include the limitations set forth in their respective base claim. Therefore, at least for the reason discussed above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29-30, 36-37 and 43-44.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected independent claims 31, 38 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Latif in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,353,612 of Zhu et al. ("Zhu").

Claim 31, as amended, claims "searching the plurality of values for a destination IP address according to positions of a plurality of subfields in the symbolic node name field, the FC name server database comprising a master field for a master storage server and a failover field for a failover storage server for the master storage server, wherein the master and failover fields are each partitioned into first and second subfields, the second subfield of the failover field stores an IP address for the master storage server if the master storage server fails, and wherein the second subfields are searched prior to searching the first subfields."

Latif does not disclose or suggest such limitations as discussed above regarding claim 27.

Zhu proposes an FC channel switch. The FC channel switch 110 of Zhu is capable of performing registration with an SNS name server for an FC network. The FC channel switch 110 of Zhu probes an FC device (Nx_Port), which is unable to perform the registration and thus, would be unseen by the SNS name server, and performs the registration on behalf of the FC device. For these probe and registration functionalities, the FC channel switch 110 is equipped with a simple name server (SNS) module 370, a switch port manager module 330, and a probe module 310, as shown in Figure 3 of Zhu.

Zhu mentions that a symbolic name is stored in the symbolic name field as defined in the FC protocol. However, in claim 31, a symbolic name *itself* is <u>not</u> retrieved from the symbolic name field. Instead, in claim 31, multiple values are retrieved from the symbolic node name field and searched for *a destination IP address* according to positions of subfields in the symbolic node name field. Zhu does not disclose or suggest, nor does the FC protocol, such operations to find a destination IP address.

Moreover, Zhu does not disclose or suggest any pertinent feature of the data structure as claimed in claim 31, *i.e.*, "the FC name server database comprising a master field for a master storage server and a failover field for a failover storage server for the master storage server," "the master and failover fields are each partitioned into first and second subfields," "the second subfield of the failover field stores an IP address for the master storage server if the master storage server fails," and "the second subfields are searched prior to searching the first subfields."

Thus, a combination of Latif and Zhu does not disclose or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 31 as amended, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 31 in view of Latif and Zhu.

Claims 38 and 45 contain similar limitations as the limitations of claim 31. Therefore, at least for the reason stated above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 38 and 45 in view of Latif and Zhu.

Claims 32-33, 39-40 and 46-47 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 31, 38

and 45, respectively and thus, include the limitations set forth in their respective base claim. Therefore, at least for the reason discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32-33, 39-40 and 46-47 are allowable.
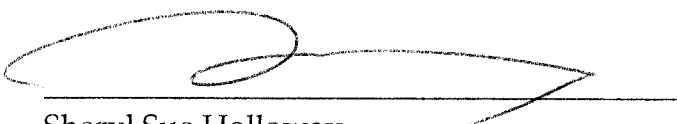
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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